

Korean war veteran and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am personally aware of the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform to serve and protect these freedoms.

When anyone seeks to destroy our system of government by acts of terrorism, it is certainly a slap in the face to those who have served to protect freedom. Allowing that individual to be buried alongside truly honorable veterans is not only an injustice, it is disrespectful of the memory of those buried in our military cemeteries and to their families who sacrificed as well.

This bill, introduced by Senator SPECTER, expands the criteria by which a veteran should be denied benefits and although I had planned to introduce such a bill, I am pleased to cosponsor S. 923 to be absolutely certain that any individual convicted of a crime as heinous as the Oklahoma City bombing will never be buried among our Nation's heroes.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 414) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, and was read the third time.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I believe we are already for a vote on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the measure? If not, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] and the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON] is absent attending a funeral.

I further announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] is absent due to a death in the family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Abraham	Feingold	Lugar
Akaka	Feinstein	Mack
Allard	Ford	McCain
Ashcroft	Frist	McConnell
Baucus	Glenn	Mikulski
Bennett	Gorton	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Graham	Moynihhan
Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Murray
Boxer	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Reed
Brownback	Hagel	Reid
Bryan	Harkin	Robb
Bumpers	Hatch	Roberts
Burns	Helms	Rockefeller
Byrd	Hollings	Roth
Campbell	Hutchinson	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cleland	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kennedy	Snowe
Coverdell	Kerrey	Specter
Craig	Kerry	Stevens
D'Amato	Kohl	Thomas
DeWine	Kyl	Thompson
Dodd	Landrieu	Thurmond
Domenici	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Dorgan	Leahy	Warner
Durbin	Levin	Wellstone
Enzi	Lieberman	Wyden
Faircloth	Lott	

NOT VOTING—2

Daschle Johnson

The bill (S. 923), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 923

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DENIAL OF VETERANS BENEFITS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is convicted of a Federal capital offense is ineligible for benefits provided to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to title 38, United States Code.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RICHARD MATSCH

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, the Oklahoma City bombing trial of Timothy McVeigh has concluded in Denver. The jury found McVeigh guilty on all 11 counts against him, and he has been sentenced to death.

Now that these proceedings are over, I take this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding service of Chief Judge Richard

Matsch who presided over the Oklahoma City bombing trial at a time when many of us here in this body are considering the appointment process for Federal judges. His leadership has provided many Americans a renewed faith in the judicial process. His example of fair, firm leadership is an outstanding model we should consider for future Federal judicial appointments.

Many members of the legal profession and the media predicted that the Oklahoma City bombing trial would last 4 months. Under Judge Matsch's calm, competent direction, the trial concluded in only 2 months.

Judge Matsch has an impressive legal career. He was associate editor of the law review at the University of Michigan School of Law. After law school, he joined the U.S. Army and became an intelligence officer. When he left the Army, he moved to Denver where he was in private practice. Judge Matsch went on to become a city attorney, a Federal prosecutor, and a bankruptcy judge before President Nixon nominated him to the Federal bench in 1974. In 1994 he was elevated to chief judge.

Judge Richard Matsch has earned the admiration of his colleagues and lawyers who have appeared before him. Lawyers and colleagues from the bench praised the choice of Matsch to preside over the trial noting that he has the appropriate judicial temperament. One attorney who has argued before him said poetically, Judge Matsch "is better than indoor plumbing."

In light of the skillful and professional way Judge Matsch handled the proceedings of the McVeigh trial, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Judge Matsch to our justice system and commending him for his firm, swift justice in such a tragic case. He has touched the lives of many Americans with his outstanding service, and has renewed the faith in all of us that justice can be served.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR EAST-WEST CENTER

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, during the negotiations to achieve passage of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1997, a number of concessions had to be made to accommodate competing interests. One such example was the continuation of the authorization for the East-West Center at the current level of \$10 million for both fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

According to its budget justification, the East-West Center seeks to improve understanding and relations between Asia, the Pacific islands, and America. While this may be a worthwhile endeavor, we must question whether it merits a direct subsidy when the center seems to duplicate State Department activities and other private business, academic, cultural exchange, and tourism programs.